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## ***GOVERNOR APPLAUDS FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS BILL*** ***Matches her “Innovation America” Agenda***

PHOENIX - For the past year, as Chair of the National Governors Association, Governor Janet Napolitano has worked closely with business and government leaders to advance her Chair's initiative, *“Innovation America,”* and the effort to keep the United States in the lead as a vibrant world economic competitor. Therefore, the Governor is especially pleased that Congress has passed the **America COMPETES Act of 2007**, which directly corresponds to her *Innovation America* initiative by investing in the key areas necessary for our success: teachers, teacher training in math and science, public-private research projects, research development and scientific breakthroughs. The bill now awaits the President's signature.

“Our students no longer compete only with their peers in other states, and business competition no longer happens solely in the United States,” Governor Napolitano said. “Innovators in Phoenix, Seattle and Boston are now also challenged by visionaries in Beijing, New Dehli, Dublin and Dubai. By fostering innovation in our classrooms, laboratories, offices, state capitols and city halls, we can keep the spirit of discovery and brand-new thinking alive in our nation.”

The Competitiveness Act mirrors the Governor's innovation agenda and does the following:

- Invests in roughly 25,000 new teachers over the next three years through professional development, summer training institutes, graduate education assistance and scholarships.
- Ensures more highly qualified teachers in the fields of mathematics, science, engineering, technology and critical foreign languages.
- Establishes a public-private partnership with the business community to identify “high needs” fields, and to train mathematicians, scientists and engineers to enter those jobs.
- Enhances the ability of states to build more competitive workforces through alignment councils – similar to Arizona's P- 20 Council – that allow coordination of education and workforce goals with industry and community leaders, and to identify the challenges of recruiting and retaining students in innovative fields.
- Broadens the participation of minorities and women in science and engineering fields at all levels, from kindergarten students to advanced researchers.

Much as Arizona supports scientific research through Science Foundation Arizona, the federal bill also invests in research and development through the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

For information about the federal bill, please visit:

<[http://www.science.house.gov/legislation/leg\\_highlights\\_detail.aspx?NewsID=1938](http://www.science.house.gov/legislation/leg_highlights_detail.aspx?NewsID=1938)>

For information Innovation America, please visit:

[www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov), and click on the Innovation America icon at the lower left of the page.